

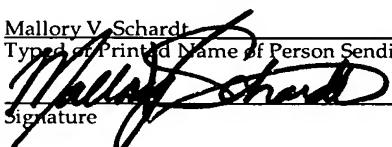


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Mallory V. Schardt  
Typed or Printed Name of Person Sending Paper or Fee

  
Signature

December 6, 2006  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

ERNST MARKART

for: TEST STRIP SYSTEM

Serial No.: 10/043,681

Filed: January 10, 2002

)  
Examiner: Paul Sang Hwa Hyun  
)  
Group Art Unit: 1743  
)  
Confirmation No.: 9212  
)  
Atty. Docket No.: 3597-0013-1  
)

Hartford, Connecticut, December 6, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND**  
**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND**

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated August 7, 2006, issued in the above-identified application. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.